



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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EU President, South Africa's Mbeki Open Information Meeting

*MB1305180196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1633 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG May 13 SAPA-AFP — European Commission President Jacques Santer and South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki Monday opened the Group of Seven (G7) aligned Information Society and Development Conference (ISAD) here.

The ISAD conference, which brings together the G7 countries and about 30 developing nations, hopes to find ways of integrating the developing world in the "global information society."

About 1,000 delegates representing government, business and civil society in different countries are attending the three-day meeting at the Gallagher Estate complex in this industrial town halfway between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The conference, which stems from a proposal at a similar G7 sponsored meeting in Brussels last February, will look at the economic and social benefits and risks to poorer countries of modern communication technology.

The ISAD delegates will examine how these countries can have access to satellites, the Internet, cellular telephony and other modern information equipment.

United States Vice-president Al Gore is also scheduled to address the conference's opening ceremony Monday, via a satellite link from Washington. Gore, during his address, is expected to announce a five-year project that will give 20 African countries access to the Internet, according to a spokesman for the U.S. delegation at the conference. The project will be named "The Leland Initiative" after US congressman Mickey Leland, who died in a plane crash in 1989 while on a hunger relief mission to Ethiopia.

The United States, Japan and Russia have each sent delegations of about 100 people each to the conference.

An exhibition showcasing new technologies that are of particular benefit to developing countries is running parallel to the conference.

South Africa's Mbeki Urges Less Regulation on Information

*MB1305181496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1743 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG May 13 SAPA — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on Monday said less regulation was needed for the southern hemisphere to develop information networks.

"The realities of imbalance and domination between north and south must be dealt with more by empowering the south through co- operation and openness and mutually beneficial contributions rather than censorship and control," Mbeki said at the opening of the three-day Information Society and Development Conference at Midrand north of Johannesburg.

He said historically developed countries had more of an advantage in creating sophisticated information structures. "We need to ensure that the path to the Information Society does not widen the gap between rich and poor, developed and developing countries," Mbeki said.

Information technology could be integrated into all fields of society and could benefit all professions, Mbeki said.

"In turn, these actions benefit the people and the business community alike, making the people better and more educated workers, more powerful consumers, significant investors, better doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs and teachers, and increasing their numbers."

Information networks could include sophisticated satellite facilities, computer networks such as Internet link-ups, boosted telecommunications equipment and training. Mbeki said the three pillars of the information highway included building infrastructure, beefing up content, and financing improvements.

Government as well as other players, including business and non- governmental organisations, needed to co-operate, Mbeki said.

German Economics Minister Speaks at Information Conference

*MB1505145396 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1408 GMT 15 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG May 15 SAPA — Developing countries cannot depend on government sources or outside funding to provide the enormous investment necessary for the information infrastructure, German Federal Minister of Economics Dr Gunter Rexrodt said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the closing day of the Information Society and Development Conference (ISAD), Dr Rexrodt said private investments and the opening of markets were the key to establishing the global information society. "There will be opportunities for cooperation between our world and the developing world on special development initiatives," he said. "But no developed country can afford to finance another country completely."

Dr Rexrodt said there was a direct relationship between availability of an efficient information infrastructure and economic growth. "The developing world can draw from Germany's experience," he said. "Within a few years former East Germany needed to establish a communication infrastructure equivalent to that of West Germany." Deutsche Telekom, the country's major telecommunications company, alone invested US 8 billion dollars in that country, he said.

"Investors are interested in Africa, and specifically South Africa," he said. "A lot has been achieved in this country and if it succeeds it will be a model for the world."

Dr Rexrodt said principles put forward at the ISAD conference would be the basis for lots of invest-

ment projects to be realised in the future. Germany is presently involved in initiatives to launch South Africa into the global information society. One such project is the multi-media teaching and student training programme from Siemens. Siemens is involved in the establishment of development centres for educational software and teacher training programmes.

At the conference developing countries expressed concern about the effects of First World technology on Third World cultures. Dr Rexrodt said: "If there are enough providers in the market, competition will force them to give the public what it wants." He said developing countries had no choice but to join the global information network. If they did not they would not be able to compete in the 21st Century.

Burundi

Burundi: Zairian Delegation Discusses Problems With Burundi

EA1305211296 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1745 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Zairian delegation headed by the deputy prime minister in charge of external relations, Jean-Marie Kititwa Kumansi, is here in Burundi since this morning to prepare the visit to Burundi of [the] Zairian prime minister. The delegation, which also includes the Zairian defense minister, Mavua Mudima, met this evening with the Burundian counterpart headed by the minister of external relations and cooperation, Venerand Bakevumusaya. Marie Gorette Muhitira has this report:

[Begin Muhitira recording] The Burundi foreign minister, Venerand Bakevumusaya, who opened the session, reiterated the Burundian charges against Zaire. Those are destabilization of Burundi by armed people who settled in Zaire as Burundian refugees, military training of those refugees on the Zairian territory and suspicion of [the] presence of the pirate radio Rutomorangongo on the Zairian territory.

The Burundi side also charges Zaire with hosting on its territory the warleaders for whom Burundi released international [word indistinct] of arrest.

He also said that military incidents occurred last week between [word indistinct] of the two countries. Zairian military captured Burundian soldiers and the Burundi side retaliated by capturing Zairian soldiers. The two parties also closed their common borders. The Burundian side also accused Zaire of closing the Burundi consulate at Bukavu.

Taking the floor, the Zairian minister for external relations, Jean-Marie Kititwa Kumansi, indicated that his delegation will examine those problems with the Burundians and see whether there is proof for the charges and then present them to the Zairian prime minister, who will come to Burundi to attempt a solution with his Burundian counterpart [as heard]. But he stressed that nobody is interested in seeing Zaire and Burundi fight. That's why they came to see ways of resolving the crisis between the two countries.

The two foreign ministers are discussing political questions whereas the two defense ministers are to tackle technical problems. The four ministers first met in tete-a-tete talks before extending the talks to other members of their delegations.

The session is due to end this Tuesday [14 May] in the evening. [end recording]

Burundi: Governor of Cibitoke Killed in Ambush 13 May

AB1405085096 Paris AFP in English
0813 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, 14 May (AFP) — The governor of the northwest province of Cibitoke was killed in an ambush attack by unknown assailants, several members of his party and authorities said Tuesday [14 May]. Sylvestre Mvutse was travelling on the road linking Bujumbura and Cibitoke when the ambush took place Monday in the Bunganda region, a member of the mainly Hutu Front for Democracy in Burundi said. Another man accompanying Mvutse was also killed and a third person was injured, authorities said.

Cibitoke has been the site of fierce clashes in recent weeks between rebel Hutus and the mainly Tutsi Army. The fighting has sparked a renewed flight of some 20,000 refugees to neighboring Zaire, the UN agency for refugees (UNHCR) said.

Burundi erupted into ethnic violence in October 1993 when Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first elected president from the Hutu majority, was assassinated in a coup attempt by the Tutsi-dominated Army.

Burundi: Commission Issues Report on Buhoro Massacre

AB1405122896 Paris AFP in English
1144 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, 14 May (AFP) — An enquiry into a massacre committed last month in Buhoro, central Burundi, has determined that 118 people were killed but failed to establish who was responsible, according to a report obtained by AFP Tuesday.

On the basis of witness statements, the four-member commission including three senior security officers found that the April 26 carnage claimed the lives of 53 women, 43 children and 19 men. Another three individual graves were found, but the investigators were not allowed to exhume the remains.

The victims were shot dead or killed with machetes and knives, the report said.

"As for the identity of the killers, the local people have spoken of soldiers, displaced Hutus from Gihogazi and men who spoke in Kinyarwanda," the report, dated May 11, said.

Kinyarwanda is the language spoken in neighboring Rwanda.

Local people and humanitarian workers had accused the Tutsi-dominated Burundian Army of being behind the killing spree in Buhoro, the site of numerous clashes between the army and rebel Hutus.

"It appears that at the start a planned military operation was mounted on April 26 in the Mutoyi region, following information that assailants (the term used to identify Hutu rebels) had moved in there and taken part of the population hostage," the commission report said.

It added that displaced people from the neighboring town of Gihogazi may have joined the soldiers in order to carry out reprisals by killing and burning down homes.

"Armed gangs ... may have also killed along the way people who refused to join them," the report said.

It said that the Army admits having killed about a dozen assailants during the operation.

The Army had previously acknowledged that a military operation had taken place in the region but consistently denied responsibility for the killings.

The commission stressed that it encountered various problems in drawing up its report and regretted that it had not been allowed to exhume some of the bodies.

The commission therefore "reserves judgment as to the reliability of the witness testimony, for lack of proof to confirm or dismiss the various statements made," the report said.

A separate UN enquiry is continuing, sources close to the United Nations said here Tuesday.

Burundi erupted into ethnic violence in October 1993 when Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first elected president from the Hutu majority, was assassinated in a coup attempt by the Tutsi-dominated Army.

Burundi: Bujumbura Radio on Inquiry Into Massacre

EA1405222996 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An inquiry report into the recent killings in Mutoyi zone, Bugendana commune, has been established and addressed to the president of the Republic by an adhoc inquiry commission after being recommended and set up by the National Security Council. Innocent Nsabimana tells us about the content of the report:

[Nsabimana] The mandate of the adhoc commission, which is made up of four people drawn from the office of the president, the office of the prime minister and the Army headquarters, was to go to the spot, to collect

useful information, and report back to the concerned authorities. [passage omitted]

The commission says that a total of 118 people were killed but, it stresses, only 29 were recognized by the local population, while nobody recognized the remaining 89. The report also points out that some of the assailants spoke Kinyarwanda, the Rwandan language. Meanwhile, a report by the second military region, dated 6 May, spoke of a military operation which was planned and implemented from Gihogazi toward Mutoyi in pursuit of armed gangs who were fleeing from the security forces taking some local people as hostages.

The [commission's] report also stresses that people had emphasized the killings were carried out with machetes, other blades and bullets. Regarding material losses 10 to 15 houses were damaged. But no school was affected.

Interpreting the facts, the adhoc commission came up with the hypothesis that armed gangs, after eliminating the heads of sectors and other local officials of the Mutoyi zone, killed people who refused to join them so as to cast blame on the security forces. This kind of fighting has been observed in many areas. Among the victims were many outsiders. The people of Mutoyi zone describe them either as a fleeing population or armed gangs fleeing military operations.

In its conclusion and recommendations, the adhoc inquiry commission criticized the fact that such a commission had just been set up, despite the fact that similar crimes have been observed almost everywhere in the country. Some people asked themselves if this did not represent double standards. Therefore, the commission recommended setting up a national inquiry commission on human rights which would be genuinely national and neutral. [passage omitted]

Zaire

Zaire: Unidentified Gunmen Attack Aid Convoy Near Goma

BR1305145296 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 13 May 96 p 6

[Report signed "G.P.": "Aid Workers Targeted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The attack on an aid convoy on Friday evening [10 May] 25 kilometers from Goma in north Kivu remained a mystery on Sunday evening. The three trucks and a cross-country vehicle belonging to the "Care" organization were ambushed at an exit from the Rwandan refugee camp of Kibumba. Heavily armed men with grenade launchers and large caliber weapons fired on the convoy before fleeing without stealing or pillaging any of the goods.

A total of 26 people were taken to the Red Cross field hospital in Kibumba; 13 of them died and many others are in a serious condition. The nature of the attack suggests it was specifically targeted at humanitarian aid organizations which are continuing to assist the 70,000 Rwandan refugees of north Kivu. But to what end?

On the other side of the border the visit by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for democracy and human rights was the occasion to once again draw attention to the "terrible and inhuman" conditions under which prisoners are being held in Rwanda. John Shattuck also promised to bring pressure to bear on the Zairian Government to end the repression of Zairian residents of Tutsi origin in Masisi, west of Goma.

Other news this weekend was the assassination of the mayor of Karengera, a district close to Cyangugu in southwest Rwanda, probably by Hutu extremists from Zaire. In the Goma region of Zaire the Zairian Government announced the arrest of Simon Bikindi, the Rwandan singer, famous for his anti-Tutsi lyrics. He was brought in for questioning together with 17 other activists on the 25 April and 1 May. Reuters reports that he had regularly performed for Western aid agencies....

Zaire: Hutu Extremists Reportedly Massacred 800 Tutsis

BR1405151196 Brussels LE SOIR in French
14 May 96 p 1

[Report signed Colette Braeckman: "Kivu Province: Hundreds of Tutsis Massacred"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We had to flee our parish, leaving behind in our church 800 Tutsis, women and

children, held hostage by a group of 200 to 300 young people brandishing machetes and grenades. The massacre started as soon as we left."

Father Victor is one of the last expatriates living in the Mokoto region, on the Masisi plateau, west of Goma and Bukavu. For several weeks, in a Kivu province torn by ethnic tension, the Mokoto monastery of Trappist monks was a refuge for Tutsis threatened with "ethnic cleansing."

Hutus from the Goma refugee camps are trying to settle in Masisi and clash regularly with the native Zairians. These Hutus from the camps include many Interahamwe militiamen who kill with machetes or grenades, "cutting" women and children. Expatriates have even reported cases of cannibalism. Since the appearance of this kind of "Hutuland," the Tutsis of Masisi, who have Zairian nationality, have been trying to flee to Rwanda. Those in Mokoto had sought refuge in the church of the Trappist monks when the attacks began at the beginning of the weekend.

"They hoped the Zairian Army would be able to protect them," relates Father Victor, "but there were only four soldiers there, totally powerless against so many attackers." Other expatriates who know the region say that the Zairian Army has neither the means nor perhaps the desire to restore order in Masisi. "As to the native Zairians, the Hunde," continues Father Victor, "they are fleeing to Goma, driven from their land by the Hutus."

This massacre in Masisi occurred at virtually the same time as another tragedy: the massacre of 375 people, mainly Hutus, in northern Burundi.

South Africa: NP To Withdraw From Provincial Governments

*MB1405164896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1633 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 14 SAPA — The National Party [NP] would also withdraw from all provincial governments from the end of June except the Western Cape's, NP leader F W de Klerk announced on Tuesday.

The decision had been unanimously taken by the party's federal council on Tuesday, he told a media conference.

The NP would, however, be willing to join a new government of provincial unity in the IFP-controlled KwaZulu/Natal if the already-agreed-upon new provincial constitution, providing for this, came into effect there. The NP would also be willing to join a new government which may be formed in the Northern Cape where no party had a clear majority.

De Klerk said the NP would continue to rule the Western Cape, where it had majority support and where it had already tabled proposals for consensus-seeking mechanisms on important matters of state. It was up to the ANC to assess its position in the Western Cape's government of provincial unity.

De Klerk said the reason for the NP's withdrawal from the eight provincial unity governments (of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Province, Northwest Province, Northern Cape, Free State, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu/Natal) was the same as for its pull-out from the central government announced last Thursday [9 May]: the new national constitution did not provide for the continuation of consensus-seeking structures at executive level. The NP remained firmly committed to the ideals that consensus-seeking models were needed at all levels of government, and that a multi-party democracy needed to be developed in South Africa.

The party would be leaving the provincial governments in the "best of spirits" and would be having discussions with all Premiers. "We are not leaving in anger, but on an issue of principle," De Klerk said.

Elaborating on the position in KwaZulu/Natal, he said that an agreement had already been reached — with the NP's support and participation — on a provincial constitution which provided for the continuation of the government of provincial unity and for a consultative mechanism. Should that constitution come into effect, the NP would join that government of provincial unity. This would be in terms of "something new ... not in terms of something that has been declared dead".

On the Northern Cape, De Klerk said after a thorough debate, the NP's federal council had concluded that "we don't think the ANC can make it on its own" there and that a different approach was needed. The NP would be willing to be part of a new government there, in the "best interests" of the province, were the ANC interested. If the ANC decided to continue governing with the aid of the "neutralised" Democratic Party (its sole MPL [member of the Provincial Legislature] is the Speaker), the NP would embark fully on its opposition path.

The NP would undertake a major party reorganisation to ensure its talents were best used, he said.

South Africa: Paper Lists NP Ministers Vacating Seats 30 Jun

*MB1305145496 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
10 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] From 1 July, South Africa is to have only one deputy president following the National Party's [NP] decision to quit the government of national unity with effect from midnight 30 June.

The post to be vacated by Deputy President F.W. de Klerk will not be filled by anyone, as the Transitional Constitution stipulates that such a post would be filled by the leader of the biggest minority party, currently the NP, until 1999.

The six cabinet posts, and three deputy minister posts currently filled by the NP, will, however, be occupied by the ANC government.

Should the Inkatha Freedom Party also decide to withdraw from the national unity government, another two cabinet posts, and two for deputy ministers, will be vacant.

The NP ministers losing their posts are the following: Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha; Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk; General Services Minister John Mavuso; Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Chris Fisser; Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers; Welfare and Population Development Minister Patrick McKenzie; Education Deputy Minister Renier Schoeman; Justice Deputy Minister Sheila Camerer; and Land Affairs Deputy Minister Fanus Schoeman.

South Africa: Minister Pik Botha To Retire From Politics 'End of June'

*MB1505080096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0740 GMT 15 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 15 SAPA — Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha is

to leave Parliament and politics at the end of June, his spokesman Roland Darroll said on Wednesday.

Darroll said Botha, 64, would step down as a member of the National Party's (NP) federal council and as leader of the NP in Gauteng. His tenure of the Mineral and Energy portfolio ends on June 30, when the NP quits the government of national unity.

The Cape Town newspaper *DIE BURGER* Wednesday quoted Botha as saying he had thought long and hard about his future, particularly after the recent death of his wife. "I realised I had to accept the unavoidable. I do not see a further role for myself in public life at the moment. It is moreover better to go now and use the time which is still allotted to me."

He intended to write a book, and could also become involved as an intermediary between companies, he told the newspaper.

Botha joined the South African diplomatic corps in 1953, and served several stretches with the South African delegation to the United Nations. He was elected MP for Wonderboom in 1970, played a key role in the South African legal team arguing the South West Africa question in International Court of Justice in the Hague, and served as ambassador to the United Nations and United States before being appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1977.

When he relinquished the post to take over Mineral and Energy Affairs after the April 1994 election, he was the longest serving foreign affairs minister in the world.

South Africa: De Klerk Comments on Pik Botha's Retirement From Politics

MB1505094896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0932 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 15 SAPA — Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha's retirement from politics would leave a great void in the National Party (NP), Deputy President FW de Klerk said on Wednesday.

"The National Party will miss him most as a dynamic participant in the hurly-burly of hard politics. His ability to carry an audience with him is almost legendary. Everyone knows that," he said in a statement.

An aide to Botha confirmed on Wednesday that Botha, who is also NP leader in Gauteng, would retire from public life at the end of June.

The NP wished Botha all success as it had a "great understanding of his decision to retire from politics at this point", De Klerk said. "If anyone could be wished a peaceful retirement, it is Pik Botha."

South Africa: De Klerk Says Truth Commission Not Meeting Objective

MB1105134596 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1156 GMT 11 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA May 11 SAPA — The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not fulfilling its objective of promoting national reconciliation, outgoing Deputy President and National Party leader FW de Klerk said on Saturday.

"You cannot really say reconcile if you, in the wrong way, open up old wounds," he told a youth rally in Pretoria. "I am beginning to become sceptical, I don't think that the processes they are following are doing this (promoting reconciliation)."

"So, we are watching them. They are moving in the wrong direction."

The commission, was, however, a reality that had to be accepted. De Klerk said to really fulfill its objective, the commission should grant amnesty to all human rights violators. "The best way would be to say: let's close the book of the past, let's really forgive and let's now start looking at the future."

He added ANC members guilty of human rights violations, not linked to the fight against apartheid, should also be brought before the commission. "A lot of ANC violence was directed against other blacks simply because they did not support the ANC. This is the fiercest form of intimidation," de Klerk said. "The Truth Commission must look at that too."

South Africa: Constitutional Court To Begin Certification of Constitution

MB1305114196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1113 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 13 SAPA — The text of the new Constitution was sent to the Judge President of the Constitutional Court with a certificate issued by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly (CA), Cyril Ramaphosa, on Monday.

This marked the start of the process of certification of the Constitutional text by the Constitutional Court, the CA said in a statement. The court had yet to give notice as to the commencement of its proceedings.

The counsel appointed to represent the Constitutional Assembly is:

- G Bizos, SC [senior counsel]
- Adv N Goso
- KTC Moerana, SC

- Adv K Moroka, and
- W Trengrove, SC

Discussions were underway with the Independent Panel of Constitutional Experts and various technical advisors to prepare technical briefings to assist the team of counsel in their preparations, the statement said.

South Africa: KwaZulu/Natal Local Elections Set for 26 June

*MB1405145396 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1445 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA May 14 SAPA — Local government elections in KwaZulu-Natal are to be held on June 26.

The decision was taken by the multi-party presidential task group at a meeting in Pretoria, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Tuesday. The group is responsible for overseeing the election preparations.

The announcement follows a cabinet decision a fortnight ago to postpone the elections, then scheduled for May 29, by no more than a month. The ANC had asked that the elections be postponed because of problems with registration of voters and violence. The National Party, Inkatha Freedom Party and some other parties had said the election should not be postponed.

South Africa: Intelligence Services To Cooperate in Fighting Crime

*MB1105183996 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR
in English 11 May 96 p 2*

[Report by Tyrone Seale]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Intelligence services in South Africa are stepping up the gathering and co-ordination of information on criminals to save the country from Mafia-style rackets, says Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla.

He was speaking yesterday at the signing of an agreement between the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the National Intelligence Agency, the South African Secret Service (SASS) and the South African National Defence Force.

The signing marked the launch of an official structure, the Joint Management Forum, to co-ordinate a strategy that the intelligence services, which report to the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (Nicoc), have been employing for several months.

SAPS Commissioner George Fivas said this co-ordination was responsible for growing successes in the curbing of crime in KwaZulu Natal.

The new agreement commits the signatories to mobilising intelligence capabilities in support of the SAPS in the war against crime and is aimed at enhancing the quality of evidence placed before the courts. In future, all joint intelligence projects and operations in terms of the memorandum signed yesterday will be conducted in consultation with the SAPS.

Nhlanhla said the intelligence agencies were giving an undertaking that they would do everything to ensure that the police were able to curb crime.

One of the urgent issues before Nicoc was the rate at which police were being killed. "If the carnage goes on, it will definitely affect the security services' fight against crime."

Nhlanhla said the SASS would also be scanning the global and regional scenes "looking for those who will affect our stability". So, for example, if the secret service became aware that drug or arms dealers were preparing to bring merchandise to this country, the police service would be informed and be able to seize the goods as they were landed.

"Our analysis shows that, unless something radical is done, we need to speed up the process (of detection) so that we don't have a Mafia in our country.

"We want to save this country long before it has international, Mafia-style syndicates," Nhlanhla said.

Fivas, asked about the potential criminal syndicates might have for infiltrating and neutralising the new intelligence drive against crime, said corruption had been identified as a crucial issue within the SAPS.

For this reason, anti-corruption units had been created and, in terms of the new agreement, the SAPS and the intelligence agencies would take joint responsibility for making it virtually impossible for syndicates to infiltrate the country. However, to sustain this, communities and the media had to expose corrupt elements in the judicial system.

Fivas said the agreement did not mean that the original, respective responsibilities of the intelligence agencies would fall away, but that they would be available for co-ordinated intelligence-gathering where the SAPS required support.

Spying on individuals or groups would be done within the framework of security legislation and the constitution, he added.

South Africa: Finance Minister 'Confident' of Government Economic Plans

*MB1405160796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1545 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATIONAL ASSEMBLY May 14 SAPA — The government needed to put a macroeconomic package on the table that would send a clear signal to the world about its capabilities, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said on Tuesday.

"We are more than confident we will deliver on what we promised," he said in a snap debate on the fall of the rand and the implications it had for the economy. Currency fluctuations were not unique to South Africa, but the shocks were felt more locally "because we have a much thinner market."

The financial and business sector had argued repeatedly that the rand was overvalued until February this year, and many industrialists had complained of being squeezed out on the export side. Exporters now had to take account of the devalued rand before they asked for the reinstatement of the General Export Incentive Scheme at earlier levels, Manuel said. The rand's depreciation offered a "window of opportunities for exports."

Manuel said current debt levels were primarily as a result of the National Party's economic mismanagement, which saw the running of current account surpluses to offset the capital deficit. After the April 1994 elections South Africa was able to run a current account deficit and import necessary capital equipment to revive domestic investment. However much of the capital which flowed into the economy was short-term and susceptible to changes in market sentiments.

The sudden drop in the rand saw foreigners holding uncovered rand-denominated bonds scrambling to cover their positions, Manuel said, adding that much of the movement in the market had come from foreigners and not from residents. "The concern at the moment was about the volatility and where it would settle," he said. "We have to accept that the exchange rate in the short term will be affected by speculative capital flows."

South Africa: Mbeki Said To Oversee Restructuring, Privatization Drive

*MB1005162796 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
(BUSINESS MAIL Supplement) in English
10-16 May 96 p B1*

[Report by Mungo Soggot]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Public Enterprises Minister Stella Sigcau is to appoint advisers on revamping and privatising state assets early next month, resurrecting the government's privatisation plans that were temporarily

buried while negotiations continued with trade unions on the issue.

The imminent appointment of these advisers coincides with Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Jay Naidoo's comments this week that Telkom [Telecommunications Corporation] is pressing ahead with plans to sell off a 25% stake to Telkom to a strategic equity partner.

A representative from Sigcau's department said the advisers should be appointed in the first week of June — about six months after the first deadline to tender for the work.

Sigcau secured a budget of R10-million [rands] for the team, who will report to government departments involved in restructuring and privatisation, apart from Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting which is to get its own advisers.

The restructuring and privatisation drive is expected to be overseen by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who announced the first wave of government privatisation targets in December last year to a chorus of union disapproval.

His announcement of plans to sell stakes in Telkom and South African Airways and all of Autonet and Transkei Airways triggered a wave of union protests, which led to government and labour's negotiation of the National Framework Agreement on state asset restructuring — a pact that spelt out basic policy and principles on restructuring and privatisation.

During the negotiations, government agreed to freeze plans for the appointment of its advisers and set aside a further R3-million for additional advisers for labour. Sigcau's representative said this money would be handed over soon.

Meanwhile, Naidoo said this week that talks with the unions on the sale of a stake in Telkom were progressing well. But Post and Telecommunications Workers Association (Potwa) president Lefty Monyokolo said Potwa remained opposed to any sale of Telkom and would fight the drive to privatise Telkom. "He [Naidoo] cannot do it without the unions," he said. There were many ways of improving Telkom's equipment and management without bringing in a foreign partner.

Although government and Telkom have stressed they have some way to go before selling a stake in Telkom, the identity of the strategic equity partner has been the subject of much speculation in the merchant banking community. The latest talk is that it is a consortium of

Canadian, American, British and French telecommunications companies. A 25% stake would be worth about R7- billion.

Naidoo and Sigcau have agreed on the need for separate advisers. The Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Department would also tender for a multidisciplinary team that would include a legal expert, a chartered accountant, a technical expert, an economist specialising in black economic empowerment and "someone with merchant banking experience".

South Africa: Corporate Restructuring, Unbundling of Firms Viewed

MB1005163396 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN (BUSINESS MAIL Supplement) in English 10-16 May 96 p B3

[Report by Simon Segal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rationalisation, restructuring and financing of corporate South Africa is gaining momentum. Last year, R19.7-billion [rands] was raised in new capital from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange [JSE] (R10-billion in 1994), surpassing the 1992 record of R12.3-billion.

Of the capital raised, R6.8-billion was through rights issues (R2.9-billion in 1994), R5.4-billion through scrip dividends (R2.3-billion) and R1.7-billion through share issues for cash (R3-billion).

The JSE saw 27 new listings and 28 delistings, leaving the number of listed companies at 639, with a market capitalisation of R1,022-billion at the end of 1995 (R1,129-billion this week). Outside the JSE, the value and number of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in South Africa rose sharply in 1995.

A feature of this corporate restructuring is the increasing number of firms unbundling — Anglo's JCI [Johannesburg Consolidated Investments], Rand Mines and M-Net's delinking of Multichoice were the principal deals in 1995.

Certainly many of these M&A deals do improve efficiency and performance by adding not only economies of scale but by rationalising existing assets — but not all do. Robin McGregor, publisher of *Who Owns Whom*, feels the corporate restructuring "could aggravate the economy's lack of competitiveness, which is already alarming".

McGregor is not alone in believing some of the blame lies with the high levels of concentration in the economy. The figures McGregor uses are from his 1992 survey, which found JSE-listed firms accounted for half South Africa's gross domestic product. "This would not

have changed much," he says. At the end of 1995, McGregor found Anglo accounted for 37.1% of the JSE's market capitalisation, Sanlam 12.4%, Old Mutual 11.2%, Rembrandt 7.8% and Liberty 7.3%.

Ernst & Young, the auditor, identifies 323 deals worth R43.4-billion (only 184 of the deals disclosed values) last year, against 152 deals in 1994 valued at R30.5-billion, R8.1-billion in 1993 from 184 deals, R13.4-billion in 1992 from 193 deals and R12.5-billion from 226 deals in 1991.

In 1995, five deals accounted for 60% of R26.3-billion in total value. The largest, R8.7-billion, was the merger of the tobacco interests of Remgro and Swiss-based Richemont, controlled by the Rupert and Hertzog families.

South Africa: Government 'Quietly Plotting' New-Look Oil Industry

MB1005163296 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN (BUSINESS MAIL Supplement) in English 10-16 May 96 p B3

[Report by Mungo Soggot]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The creation of a huge South African [SA] oil company is firmly back on the agenda of those in government quietly plotting a new-look oil industry.

The scheme originally involved a link-up between Engen, Sasol [South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Corporation] Oil and the state's bag of oil assets, but government sources said this week that Total SA could also be part of it.

The idea of a "South African National Oil Company" (Sanoco) has popped up several times over the past year as a possible key feature of a revamped oil industry. But its government backers have never discussed it openly.

"They have flouted the so-called transparency of the new government and kept their plans to their dark, smoke-filled rooms. Is it because they are afraid this massive plan has no industrial merit?" asked one industry commentator. And the companies involved have either refused to comment or expressed reservations.

The plan, hatched in the Trade and Industry Department, was initially dismissed by stock exchange analysts and most senior oil company officials as being rooted in impractical, misplaced nationalism.

The scheme then gained more credibility, with others in government — including the Finance Department — planning reforms of an industry geared to sanctions busting and keeping foreign oil companies happy. Some

deregulation of the intricate rules which guarantee oil companies their margins and keep out new players is likely.

So those who believe South Africa cannot be left to the mercy of the international oil majors in a deregulated market say it is the answer.

"There is a strong rationale for having a large, maverick player in the industry," said one of the scheme's government backers this week.

But last August they had to put their plans on ice just as the first phase of the scheme was about to fall into place. Sasol Oil and Engen appeared poised to merge, then Total SA, which jointly owns the Natref oil refinery with Sasol, spoiled the party. The French-owned company said Sasol's quiet reshuffling of its stake in the refinery ahead of the merger had given it a pre-emptive right so it and Sasol put the matter up for arbitration in London.

Last week Sasol said it and Total SA had resolved the matter, but were tight-lipped on the terms of the agreement. Government sources have confirmed analysts' speculation that Total SA was pacified by being included. The sources said the resolution of the dispute had resuscitated their plans.

Neither Engen nor Sasol would confirm whether they had restarted merger talks, but one analyst said: "You can bet they have."

The merger would be particularly beneficial to Sasol as it would give it an entry into the retail market. At present, in exchange for the oil companies guaranteeing to buy Sasol's synthetic fuel, Sasol stays out of retailing.

Asked about the status of talks, Sasol communications manager Alfonso Niemand said that after settling the dispute with Total, Sasol was "considering its options".

Engen company secretary Douglas Evans said the logic for Engen's involvement with Sasol Oil remained, but the company would have to "review where matters lie" eight months on. Senior Total officials could not be reached for comment.

Other oil industry players have either rubbished Sanoco or expressed concern that such a big player would be a threat in a deregulated market. They are particularly keen to know the state's role in the proposed company — not surprising considering their long-standing opposition to the subsidies handed to Sasol and Moss gas.

They also want to know what the state's stake in such a company would be. Indirectly, government has a 23% stake in Sasol. And the scheme's planners hope to include the state oil companies housed in the Central Energy Fund (CEF), although they say these are not central to their plans. The CEF companies included

Moss gas [Mossel Bay gas project], which could be sold this year, and the state oil trading company, the Strategic Fuel Fund.

The government officials behind the scheme appear unfazed by the opposition, which includes some of the senior officials of the very companies they want to merge.

One said this week that even if the companies' managements were wary, there was a lot of "commonality" among their shareholders. Gencor is a major Engen shareholder and Rembrandt is a big Total SA shareholder.

But this determination is perceived as government meddling by industry players who want a much reduced state presence. This suggests Sanoco's pushers could face an uphill struggle exposing their plans to the cold light of day.

South Africa: Modise To Attend Taiwan's Presidential Inauguration

MB1005122596 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0803 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TAIPEI MAY 10 SAPA-DPA — South African President Nelson Mandela will send his defence minister, Joe Modise, to President Lee Teng-hui's inauguration, Taipei announced Friday, saying this showed that ties between Taipei and Pretoria are stable.

"President Mandela cannot attend because of his planned visit to Germany. We welcome any envoy he appoints," said Yang Chin-tien, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of African Affairs.

Modise will lead the South African delegation to Lee's May 20 inauguration. Lee won re-election in Taiwan's first democratic election on March 23.

South Africa is the biggest among the 31 nations that recognize Taiwan, seat of the exiled Chinese Nationalist Government since 1949. It is eager to launch formal ties with China but Beijing demands that Pretoria first cut its cut ties with Taipei.

China supported the African National Congress, led by Mandela, during its long struggle against white rule. Many of Mandela's supporters say the time has come to reward Beijing with diplomatic recognition.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin is currently making a six-nation tour in Africa to curb Taiwan's spread of influence. On Thursday, Jiang signed a 13 million U.S. dollar soft loan agreement with Kenya, the first stop of his trip.

South African Press Review for 14 May

MB1405135096

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Zimbabwe Places 'Stranglehold' on Media — Now that the Zimbabwe Mass Media Trust, Zimbabwe's main press group, is "fully controlled by Robert Mugabe's government" Zimbabwe "has taken another step towards totalitarianism," says a page-14 editorial in Johannesburg **THE STAR** in English on 14 May. However, the "Zimbabwe government's stranglehold on the media is not quite absolute. It is fitting that in the week that the takeover of the trust was formalised, a new business-oriented weekly, the Zimbabwe Independent, hit the streets." It will "no doubt come under the same pressures as other independent papers. While not subject to formal censorship, businesses which advertise in independents are not favourably regarded when it comes to the award of tenders."

SOWETAN

Lack of Press Freedom in Zimbabwe — "Before the Zimbabwean government assumed full control of the country's main Press group, President Robert Mugabe had already shown his disinterest in Press freedom. He has personally ordered the sacking of three editors and it is common cause that Zimbabwean newspapers have been regarded as little more than state mouthpieces," notes a page-12 editorial in Johannesburg **SOWETAN** in English on 14 May. President Mugabe "seems to have missed the lesson of democracy completely."

BUSINESS DAY

Call for 'Tough Talking' to Zimbabwe — Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 14 May in a page-12

editorial believes it is South Africa's "business" if Zimbabwe or Zambia are "bankrupted by ruinous policies, or Angola and Zaire are corrupt and ungovernable" because "we bear the consequences in terms of an influx of political and economic refugees who will compete here for already limited resources." South Africa does not have the right to interfere but "influence, however, is a very different thing." The country has a "duty" to "remind those states that their policies can directly affect our interests." By doing so, there is likely to be "friction" between South Africa and some of its neighbors. "The first is likely to be Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's increasingly autocratic rule has led to new threats to property and to trade." To reduce "the migration of millions across" South Africa's borders there needs to be economic growth and job creation in neighboring countries and "some tough talking to old political friends."

CITY PRESS

Criticism of NP's Early Withdrawal From Unity Government — Johannesburg **CITY PRESS** in English on 12 May in a page-16 editorial questions the timing of the National Party's, NP, withdrawal from the government of national unity. The paper believes the "NP should have stayed on until the next general elections in 1999. After all, they were responsible for the near destruction of this country — through their policy of apartheid. They should have helped more with the rebuilding of this country."

Mozambique

Mozambique: Frelimo Central Committee Issues Communiqué

MB1505142296 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
13 May 96 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text]

I. Introduction

The Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) Party Central Committee held its sixth session from 8-10 May 1996 at the Frelimo Party Central School, in the city of Matola, to examine the country's political, economic, and social situation, as well as to discuss preparations for the seventh Frelimo Party Congress.

In his opening speech, the comrade chairman of the party, on behalf of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, saluted Frelimo militants and sympathizers, peasants, wage earners, trade unions, and professional associations who in difficult conditions participate in the solution of national problems and the country's reconstruction.

The Frelimo Party Central Committee remembered its members, comrades Eduardo Arao and Bernardo Atal Ugembe, who died after the party's fifth session.

On the basis of documents submitted by the Frelimo Party Political Commission, the Party Secretariat, the Parliamentary Bench, and the Government, the Frelimo Party Central Committee developed a frank and direct debate. It reiterated that Frelimo must continue to fight for an increasing democratic society and a state of the rule of law and social justice, where national interests prevail and work and workers' influence in the economic and social life are validated.

In examining different points on the working agenda, the Central Committee noted:

II. On the Party

The Central Committee appreciated efforts made to revitalize party organs. It saluted the Political Commission and the Central Committee Secretariat for their reports which criticized inefficiency registered in some sectors of the life of the party. This constituted a good foundation for the session's proceedings.

The Central Committee noted there has been an increase in party members and concluded that the process of admission of new members must be continued at the grassroots level. This would establish a broad sphere of freedom of expression of views and new proposals for action at different levels. It would allow for placing in leadership posts, at different levels, comrades who

have demonstrated initiative, creativity, hard work, and commitment to the cause of the Frelimo Party and the people, within the framework of the principle of renewal and continuity.

The party should not only strengthen its material and financial foundation but also continue to improve its composition and organization. Thus, the Frelimo Party Central Committee saluted measures adopted to achieve this objective. Likewise, it noted the need to rapidly invest in mechanisms aimed at collecting monthly fees from party members, particularly in urban areas.

In a spirit of tolerance, the Central Committee encourages party members and organs at different levels to pursue their work side-by-side with other internal and external political forces, which, like Frelimo, want to see the development of the country and the welfare of its people.

The Central Committee urges the Government to improve its coordination with the party and the parliamentary bench.

The Central Committee instructed party members placed at different levels of the party hierarchy, the Parliament, the Government, state administration, and public and private life to base their action at workplaces exclusively in defense of national interests and the effective improvement of people's living conditions.

As a matter of fact, macroeconomic policies lose all their meaning when they inevitably lead to the deterioration of the standards of living of the citizens, reducing them to absolute misery.

III. Local Government Elections

The Central Committee saluted the parliamentary bench, the Government, and party militants for their fight against the tendency to rush the decentralization process in a strategy designed to undermine national unity, create chaos, and make the country ungovernable.

Thus, the Central Committee reiterates the principle of a realistic and sustainable gradual process in manpower, material, financial, cultural, and political fields.

Likewise, the Central Committee urges militants and party and State organs to maintain vigilance against incorrect utilization of ethnic affiliation in the process of the decentralization of Public Administration.

As always, Frelimo reiterates that national unity is the guiding principle of its actions and a privileged instrument in the construction of the nation, fighting all manifestations of regionalism, racism, and tribalism.

IV. Political, Economic, and Social Situation

The Frelimo Party Central Committee shares Mozambican people's concerns about the high cost of living and reiterates the need to continue discussions at the level of Tripartite talks between the government, employers, and trade unions, for a real salary increase. Tendencies which, taking advantage of the people's suffering, propose demagogic and populist measures, which are unviable to resolve the problem, should be fought.

The Central Committee notes with concern the deterioration to intolerable levels of the standards of living of workers and peasants. The Central Committee, unequivocally and unconditionally, expresses its solidarity with Mozambican workers and peasants in their struggle for better and more dignifying conditions, which are denied them by certain measures imposed within the framework of the structural adjustment programs.

Efforts to reduce inflation and bring about economic growth must be pursued harmoniously in a way to avoid greater suffering of the Mozambican people.

International financial institutions must bear this in mind and Mozambique's concrete situation, and the need for its reconstruction, after long years of devastating war and in an international economic and financial atmosphere which is less favorable to poor countries.

The Central Committee urges all people, workers and peasants in particular, to selflessly continue with production, not to be discouraged in the face of many difficulties, and not to give in to maneuvers from those who caused existing problems but who now want to appear as defenders of the workers' interests.

The Central Committee urges the Government to continue with measures which would broaden the access to rights enshrined in the Constitution, notably the right to work and private initiative; the right to social security, health, housing, environment, and the quality of life; the right to protection for mothers, children, physically disabled and old people; the right to education, cultural creativity, and sports.

The Central Committee reaffirms that it promised the people and voters a Better Future.

The Central Committee urges the Government to always correct irregularities detected, not to divert, despite all existing difficulties, from the Frelimo's sacred objective to construct a Better Future, in the fields of privatization of enterprises, sale of state-owned houses, modernization of the economy, and the rational utilization of resources.

Thus, with regard to privatization of enterprises, the State cannot disregard its capacity to intervene and reg-

ulate the economy. It should safeguard its influence and deciding power in strategic enterprises, notably in the fields of banking, insurance, air transportation, railroads and harbors, energy and water, and communications.

The Government must adopt measures designed to stabilize the prices of basic commodities and guarantee the sale of surplus agricultural produce, thus encouraging the participation of all economic agents.

The Government must also adopt measures which would promote, encourage, and guarantee the true participation of national entrepreneurs in the economy.

V. Seventh Congress

The Central Committee decided that the Frelimo Party seventh Congress should be held from 19-24 May 1997, in the city of Maputo, thus, with its decisions, preparing for the holding of local government elections.

The Central Committee instructs the Political Commission to fix the date for the next Frelimo Party Central Committee session in order to examine and approve guidelines for internal elections and the documents to be submitted to party militants in preparation for the congress.

VI. To the Frelimo Party Militants, Sympathizers, and Cadres

The Central Committee reaffirms that in order to instill a new dynamism in the party there is a need to guarantee the strengthening of the Party Cell, as a basic unit for the debate and implementation of party tasks, as a founding pillar that adapts itself to existing circumstances.

The Frelimo Party's strength depends on all of us.

The Central Committee urges party militants and sympathizers to actively participate in preparations for the Frelimo Party seventh congress.

The Central Committee urges all Mozambican people to involve themselves in marking the 10th anniversary of the Mbuzini tragedy.

The Central Committee, as was rightly pointed out by the sixth congress, reaffirms that under the present democratic context, there is a need to uphold the trust and firmness in our stances, fully convinced that we belong to a party that has always presented best alternatives for the society's development and the benefit of the overwhelming majority of our people.

For a Better Future, the Struggle Continues.

[Issued] Matola, 10 May 1996

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Government Takes 'Full Control' of Main Press Group

MB1205133296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1151 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 12 SAPA — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's government has assumed full control of the country's main press group following the cancellation of the last legal vestiges of independence protecting it from state interference.

A local newspaper on Sunday reported that the Zimbabwe Mass Media Trust (ZMMT), the nominally independent body that owns the country's largest Press chain Zimbabwe Newspapers (Zimpapers) and the domestic wire service the Zimbabwe Inter-Africa News Agency (ZIANA) would now have to take orders from Mugabe or the information minister.

The Sunday Mail, the country's largest selling newspaper and a ZMMT title, quoted Information director Bornwell Chakaodza as saying the legal deed that created the ZMMT had been amended last month to strip the trustees of their independence and put the government in charge. Chakaodza said that the ZMMT's freedom from state control was "unhealthy, since it meant that the trustees could run Zimpapers the way they wanted and neither the minister of information nor the president had the legal powers to do anything about it".

Zimbabwe Newspapers titles have been regarded as little more than state mouthpieces, with politicians sometimes writing the papers' editorials while Mugabe has personally ordered the sacking of three editors. Politicians also have the final decision on the appointment of senior executives.

However, the election last year of a new ZMMT chairman saw the first attempts by the trust to resist direct government influence and to improve the professional standing of the newspaper group that includes the main daily newspaper The Herald, another daily, Ziana and four weeklies.

The ZMMT was founded in 1981 to take over the ownership of Zimbabwe Newspapers after its previous owner, South Africa's Argus Group, sold out. The newly-elected ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] government at the time declared its respect for Press freedom and established the ZMMT with a notarial deed of trust that included no state officials among the trustees and gave them the sole right to appoint their members.

But effective state control of the press was ensured, senior media sources confirmed, by an intimate relationship between former ZMMT chairman Davidson Sadza

and former information minister Nathan Shamuyarira, also propaganda boss for ZANU-PF's politburo which is still regarded as the effective controller of the country's mainstream press.

However, pressure for change began in late 1994 after Sadza's resignation and when David Karimanzira, information minister until his demotion last week, demanded that Shamuyarira's cousin be appointed ZMMT chairman. The board refused, appointing respected and independent-minded lawyer Honour Mkushi instead.

"Legally the government could not touch the trust," a senior newspaper executive who asked not to be named said. "But when you have the whole cabinet threatening you, you have to be very brave to defy them."

Late last year, Mugabe's cabinet approved the change, and then ordered Mkushi and the other trustees to effect it. They were told they would have to resign if they refused. They voted in November to allow the deed to be changed, and give Mugabe and the information minister powers to issue directives to the ZMMT. The amended deed was registered at the high court on April 29.

Mkushi could not be contacted for comment.

Chakaodza's announcement came days after the launch of the new locally-owned Zimbabwe Independent, which took over the role of the formerly outspoken independent weekly Financial Gazette whose editor was sacked by its proprietor for publishing a report that embarrassed Mugabe.

Zimbabwe: Government Denies Vice President Dead in South Africa

MB1405133196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1318 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 14 SAPA — A Zimbabwean government official has denied that Deputy President Joshua Nkomo has died after being hospitalised in Cape Town's Kingsbury Hospital.

The official, who asked not to be named, confirmed that Nkomo had been readmitted to the hospital as a private patient, but would not disclose the nature of his condition. "He is not well," he said. The official said the deputy president had been discharged from hospital last month, but was asked to return for further tests.

On rumours that Nkomo had died, the official said he had heard of these claims on Tuesday but that they were groundless.

Hospital and Zimbabwean High Commission staff have declined to speak to the media and Zimbabwe press have also been unable to establish Nkomo's condition or whereabouts. The Zimbabwean Acting High Commissioner was not available for comment on Tuesday.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: U.S. Criticized For 'Passive Complicity' in Liberia

AB1405213696 Abidjan *FRATERNITE MATIN*
in French 14 May 96 p 4

[From the "Just An Opinion" column by Jean-Baptiste Akrou: "Pertinent Questions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "If we just had a tenth of what the Americans deployed simply to evacuate their nationals, the Liberian problem would have been settled a long time ago." This is what an official of the Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group in Liberia told the world media when the umpteenth summit on that country failed lamentably.

At a time when the tragedy of 3,500 Liberians is being focused on, certain questions need to be asked: Have the international community and its champions the right to interfere for humanitarian reasons? Having done that well, what do they need to do to bring back peace in Liberia?

Between the life of warlords and the death of a whole people, which one should be given priority? Who benefits from this war of the poor with acts of barbarism from another age? Why this passive complicity? I just want to know!

Ghana

Ghana: Liberian Council Chairman Interviewed on Accra Meeting

AB1005175996 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Liberian Council of State, Professor Wilton Sankawolo, has appealed to the international community not to relent in their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Liberian crisis. He made the appeal in an interview in Accra with George Lawson:

[Begin recording] [Lawson] Prof. Wilton Sankawolo said he saw the meeting in Accra as a positive step to the resolving of the Liberian crisis which, according to him, would lead to the establishment of democratic rule in that country.

[Sankawolo] I will say the meeting went off fine. We are up to results. We've seen that the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] authority took measures that they will implement, will lead to the resolution of our problem and I think my colleagues in the council will be satisfied with the result of this

meeting because we are all committed to peace. We want to see an end to see this war, to have democratic rule established in the country.

[Lawson] On the reinstatement of General Roosevelt Johnson, Prof. Sankawolo had this to say:

[Sankawolo] Whether Gen. Johnson will be reinstated or not depends on the Council of State as a whole. In fact, I cannot give you any kind of decision here, say what will happen. The proposals of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine will be taken to the Council of State. We will look at everything they have put into those proposals and the Gen. Johnson affair is only a part of it and we will try to do everything to cooperate with the ECOWAS authority. After all, they are very instrumental in the resolution of the crisis in Liberia.

[Lawson] The chairman of the Liberian Council of State appealed to the international community for assistance. Prof. Sankawolo thanked the ECOWAS chairman, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, and the ECOWAS community for their effort to bring lasting solution to the conflict in Liberia. [end recording]

Ghana: Radio on Koromah's Arrival for Talks, Johnson's Statement

AB1205204296 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1800 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A member of the Liberian Council of State, Alhaji Koromah, is in the country at the invitation of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] chairman, President Rawlings. Alhaji Koromah told newsmen on arrival in Accra that he would discuss further issues on Liberia with President Rawlings.

Asked why he failed to attend the recent meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia, Alhaji Koromah said the Council of State reviewed the invitation to the meeting and decided that the chairman, Professor Wilton Sankawolo, Chief Tamba Taylor, as well as other officials, should represent the council while other council members maintain law and order in Monrovia. According to Alhaji Koromah, the meeting of the Committee of Nine was not a meeting for warring factions. He described the Accra meeting as victory of the ECOWAS peace plan on Liberia.

Alhaji Koromah attributed causes of the recent hostilities to the former interim head of state, Dr. Amos Sawyer and his colleagues. He said that ECOWAS should investigate the role of these people in influencing a situation they have no control over. On ECOWAS decision about the reinstatement of General Roosevelt

Johnson on the Council of State, Alhaji Koromah made it clear that the deliberation of the committee was only a recommendation which the Council of State would have to look at.

Meanwhile, the leader of ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson] faction, Major General Roosevelt Johnson, has expressed his satisfaction with and support for the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Standing Committee of Nine to put the Abuja Accord back on track. In a statement released in Accra today, Gen. Johnson said since the decisions reached constitute a formula for returning Liberia to peace and stability, ECOWAS will enjoy the active support and implementation by ULIMO-J. He appealed to the other factions to join in implementing the recommendations to return peace and stability to Liberia and to win the confidence of the international community.

The Committee of Nine ministerial meeting, which ended in Accra last Wednesday [8 May], proposed among others that Gen. Johnson whose removal as minister of rural development sparked off the recent fighting be reinstated. Gen. Johnson, on the other hand, was asked to issue a statement that he is satisfied with and prepared to work along lines of mechanisms for peace and stability in Liberia.

In the statement, Gen. Johnson urged the Council of State, warring parties, and the Liberian people to do their utmost to work together in a spirit of reconciliation and commitment in order to halt the carnage and steady deterioration of the country. They should also work tirelessly to democratize Liberia and Gen. Johnson said he is grateful to the ECOWAS Committee, especially President Rawlings, as well as the government and people of Ghana for their efforts to see peace return to Liberia.

Ghana: Liberian Faction Leader Koromah Meets Rawlings 13 May

*AB1305193296 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
1800 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A member of the Liberian Council of State, Alhaji Koromah, today held a meeting with the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] chairman, President Rawlings, at the Castle, Osu. They discussed the current crisis in Liberia and ways to resolve it and carry on with disarmament and elections.

Speaking to newsmen later, Alhaji Koromah expressed gratitude to President Rawlings for his untiring efforts at finding peace in Liberia. He called on Ghanaians

to be patient with the Liberian leadership. He said he is going back with a greater resolve to implement the Abuja accord and make it work.

Ghana: Organization Urges Liberia's Neighbors To Accept Refugees

*AB1305084496 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Accra, an organization called The Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission has expressed its concern over the way the boat people are being treated and appealed to Liberia's neighbors to take them in on humanitarian grounds. On the line, I asked the organization's executive director, Woyade Kabawode, what he thinks they should do.

[Begin Kabawode recording] The situation of the Bulk Challenger is very unfortunate. It is known that the vessel is not seaworthy. It is taking in an estimated 8,000 gallons of water every hour and has on board an estimated over 5,000 persons, and it is obvious that if this vessel is not allowed to dock somewhere it might either sink and we will have a disaster on our hands. So we are appealing to countries refusing Liberian refugees to please let them berth on humanitarian grounds in the spirit of the Geneva Convention. [end recording]

Ghana: Papers on Country's Assistance to Liberian Refugees

*AB1405144796 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 14 May 96*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The GHANAIAAN TIMES says at the start of the Liberian crisis, Ghana was among the first countries to show concern for the plight of the people by absorbing a large number of refugees. Ghana has also committed men and resources to peacekeeping in Liberia. The TIMES sees Ghana's position not to accept any more refugees as legitimate and understandable and says nobody should blame Ghana, when other countries have refused to help.

The paper also sees the carrying of the refugees to Ghana as unnecessary because a safe haven has been created by ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] inside Liberia for displaced persons. The TIMES states that the present situation offers a lesson to the warring factions in Liberia. It says the warlords must not only make peace but also ensure that it endures because their lust for personal glory and power is exposing Liberians to

untold hardships and loss of lives and property. The **TIMES** makes it clear that it is impossible for any country to accept a never-ending stream of refugees fleeing from a senseless war.

According to the **DAILY GRAPHIC**, about 38 meetings have been held to design mechanisms for bringing peace to Liberia. The paper states that each agreement has been flouted by the very people who gave their consent and appended their signatures because of deep-seated mistrust, selfishness, and ambition for power. The paper believes that Ghana has sacrificed more than enough to bring peace to Liberia. The **GRAPHIC** does not understand why the international media are misinterpreting Ghana's inability to take in more Liberian refugees. The paper says it is now time for the international community to show some real commitment, like Ghana, to the Liberian crisis and help bring peace to that country.

THE GUIDE says it is aware of the politics of intrigues, trickery, and sabotage within and between the **ECOWAS** [Economic Community of West African States] states concerning the Liberian conflict. It states that diplomatic niceties have prevented the sickening phenomenon from being displayed in the open. **THE GUIDE** makes it clear that the elusiveness of peace in Liberia is not exclusively a Liberian problem. The problem has a subregional dimension. **THE GUIDE** appeals to President Rawlings to withdraw Ghanaian troops and abandon the whole Liberian enterprise.

The **BUSINESS** and **FINANCIAL TIMES** says the gloomy picture in Liberia requires heart searching for Ghanaians to decide whether Ghana should continue to shoulder the huge expense of maintaining the **ECOWAS** chairmanship. Ghana's involvement in the Liberian crisis has been stupendous. The paper wonders why the United States should look on unconcerned while Liberia is torn apart. The **BUSINESS** and **FINANCIAL TIMES** opinion is that if the warlords remain adamant, the only option left will be to leave them to their fate.

**Ghana: Liberian Refugees Granted Asylum;
Woewiyu Said on Ship**

*AB1405195296 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1800 GMT 14 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government of Ghana has reconsidered its earlier position on the refugees aboard the Nigerian vessel, the **Bulk Challenger**. A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the government has decided to allow the vessel to dock and to grant temporary asylum to its Liberian passengers.

The statement points out, however, that Ghana and other West African countries, which are grappling with their

own socioeconomic problems, have a limited capacity to take in more Liberian refugees. Therefore, they can no longer take on additional refugees for an indefinite period.

The statement says the government's action has been precipitated by humanitarian considerations to lessen the plight of the Liberians on the vessel who are suffering on account of the failure of Liberian political and faction leaders. According to the statement, the government has received reports indicating that the safe-haven status of the Bushrod Island, where the Liberian refugees would have been sent, has come under serious threat as a result of factional fighting in Monrovia.

The statement says numerous appeals have been made to the Government of Ghana by the United Nations, the OAU, friendly countries, and nongovernmental organizations, urging Ghana to review her stand and accept temporarily the Liberians stranded on the vessel. It says in furtherance of the appeals, the international community has promised its fullest support to cater for the requirements of the refugees who will be given temporary asylum.

Despite this gesture, the international community has indicated that it does not want to encourage any further exodus from Liberia by Liberians on vessels which cannot assure passengers of any final confirmed destination. The ship docked at the Takoradi harbor today, ending three days of trauma for the refugees.

Addressing them, the commander of the Western Naval Command, Commodore J.Y. Adorku, said Ghana had to take a firm decision to ensure their safety and urged them to be law-abiding. A spokesman for the refugees prayed to God and commended the Ghana Government for its hospitality and promised that they will be law-abiding.

According to the deputy western regional minister, Mr. Seidu Adamu, an area at Kadzima on the Cape Coast road has been acquired to settle some of the refugees since Esipong is too small to accommodate all of them.

Meanwhile, there are reports that Mr. Tom Woewiyu, who once served in Mr. Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia], and 25 Nigerian **ECOMOG** [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], are on the ship at Takoradi.

Ghana: Government Calls For Halt to Liberian Exodus

AB1505084796 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
0600 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ghana has called for an immediate halt to the exodus of Liberians on vessels whose final destination cannot be guaranteed. This is because Ghana can no longer accept refugees fleeing the carnage in Liberia and get stranded on vessels.

An official statement signed by the minister of information, Mr. Kofi Totobi-Quakyi, stressed that the government's decision to accept the more than 3,000 refugees aboard the distressed Nigerian freighter, Bulk Challenger, was based on humanitarian grounds. The decision also followed growing international concern for the health and safety of the refugees on board the vessel. The statement said the international community has offered its fullest support for the upkeep of the refugees who will be given temporary asylum.

Meanwhile, the head of delegation of the European Union in Ghana, Mr. (Xavier Kuyor), and the Dutch Embassy have issued separate statements pledging assistance for the upkeep of the refugees. Mr. (Kuyor)'s statement said the EU headquarters has ordered urgent and immediate funding under the Lome Convention and through a reputable NGO [nongovernmental organization] to cover costs of looking after the refugees. The statement from the Dutch Embassy expressed its government's willingness to give financial contribution to Ghana for taking the refugees.

It has been revealed that about 60 families of Liberian Government officials were on board the Bulk Challenger which finally docked at the Takoradi port yesterday. The Liberian labor minister, Mr. Tom Woewiyu, told the GHANA NEWS AGENCY that the officials who included Mr. Gaya Famble, first deputy speaker and chairman of the interim judicial committee, were put on board by ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group]. Mr. Woewiyu, former defense spokesman for Mr. Charles Taylor and now leader of the breakaway Central Revolutionary Council of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] said he was coming to Accra to attend last week's ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Committee of Nine on Liberia. He was taken through the normal registration of refugees at the port.

The commander of the Western Naval Command, Commodore J.K. Adiko, said Mr. Woewiyu will be treated differently. There were also 26 ECOMOG soldiers including a captain who said they had boarded the vessel

as individuals on pass. Mr. Woewiyu said most people on board were, as he put it, real passengers who bought tickets for the voyage to Accra and Lagos. He said they could not blame the Ghana Government for their ordeal, but Liberians themselves.

Mr. Woewiyu said it has been a very tough and terrible experience. The worst time was when they entered Ivorian waters and were told that the boat was leaking. This compelled the captain to force his way to San Pedro. Mr. Woewiyu expressed gratitude to the Ghana Government for finally accepting the refugees. On the situation in Liberia, he said he hopes to meet the Ghana Government to express his views. Mr. Woewiyu however said it was unfortunate that the Abuja Accord recognized some groups as the largest and gave them more powers than they need.

Liberia

Liberia: Johnson To Honor Cease-Fire, Plans Return to Monrovia

AB1005164696 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 10 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dust has yet to clear following what seems to be the disastrous failure this week of the emergency ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] summit in Accra on the fighting in Monrovia and the faltering Liberian peace process. Two of the main faction leaders, Alhaji Kromah and Charles Taylor didn't attend, neither did several of the heads of state, so it was called off. The ECOWAS ministers made some proposals. They said the man Kromah and Taylor have been fighting in Monrovia, Roosevelt Johnson, should be allowed back into the transitional government. In exchange, Johnson must pledge to behave himself. His fighters were accused of scrapping with ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeepers and Johnson himself is wanted for the death of people near his residence in Monrovia. Roosevelt Johnson is in Accra. On the line, Timothy Ecott asked him if he had agreed to toe the line on the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Johnson] We have written a press statement reaffirming our own peculiar commitment to the peace process. We accept the decision that came out that we recommit ourselves to the Abuja agreement and that we are definitely going to honor the cease-fire since indeed we have never been the aggressor.

[Ecott] Aren't these agreements completely worthless because no matter how many times you meet and

whoever makes pledges, suffering and fighting continue in Liberia one month after the next?

[Johnson] Well, as I stated earlier we have never been the aggressor and I know definitely that you will agree with us also. We are committed to the Abuja agreement and we hope that the other parties involved will see reason to accept the decisions that were made at this conference, so that peace can return to our country.

[Ecott] What happens now? Are you going to go back to Liberia?

[Johnson] Definitely, as early as possible. We were invited to attend this conference so as to find a lasting solution to the April [words indistinct] hostilities that erupted in Monrovia and we were assured that we will be going back to Monrovia.

[Ecott] There is no acceptance on the part of people like Mr. Taylor's forces and himself that you should go back.

[Johnson] Mr. Taylor is not Liberia. Mr. Taylor is a citizen of Liberia just as I am. Whether he accepts it or not, that's not my concern. My concern is that I am a Liberian and Mr. Taylor knows that I have a right to be in Liberia and I don't think he will object to it despite the fact that we may disagree in principle. He wants to come to power by the barrel of the gun and I disapprove that, but that does not make us Liberians [as heard]. I am a Liberian, and I have the right to be in Liberia.

[Ecott] The fact is that fighting did break out and your supporters are holed up in the Barclay Training Center under siege. How is that situation going to change?

[Johnson] Look, look, look, look, let me make something clear. Look, the perception that our forces, our people have been squeezed up into the Barclay Training Center is not correct. You understand, it's not correct, and we are in firm control of other areas. Well, we don't want to boast of military might, you understand. We are concerned about the people of Liberia being free to move around. We are concerned of having this country free of guns and this is our concern. Let it not be known. I mean, I don't want anybody to have that perception that we have been barricaded in the barracks, you understand. This is not true.

[Ecott] Given the current situation in Liberia, are you serious about saying you will go back.

[Johnson] What do you mean if I'm serious to say if I'm going back. Liberia belongs to all of us. I am a Liberian. I have never stirred up any commotion or disturbances in Liberia, Ok? I am not the aggressor and everybody knows it since 1989 who has been the aggressor, and even the current reports that were reported by

the the ECOMOG field commander show that the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Kromah faction] have been the aggressor. [end recording]

Liberia: NPFL Fires Mortars Into Barclay Training Center

*AB1005153296 Paris AFP in English
1512 GMT 10 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Monrovia, May 10 (AFP) — Factional clashes resumed in Monrovia on Friday with an assault on a heavily populated barracks in the centre of the city.

Fighters loyal to Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) fired rocket propelled grenades and mortars into the Barclay Training Centre, a barracks housing not only rival faction members but also several thousand civilians.

Some fire was returned from inside the barracks.

As with much of the clashes that began more than a month ago, few sophisticated tactics were employed during Friday's fighting.

A typical day consists of one side advancing into the other's territory and then being pushed back to where it started from.

Toward the end of the day, many fighters are drunk or high. [passage omitted]

Sporadic shooting was also heard in other parts of Monrovia on Friday.

In the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point NPFL fighters prepared Molotov cocktails, an indication that ammunition may be running low.

In the city's port, police and members of the African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, fired shots in the air after some of the thousands of civilians there hoping to board any ship leaving Liberia were caught breaking into a World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse.

Burdened with large sacks of bulgar wheat, many of those who broke in were unable to run fast enough to escape a beating by the authorities, who quickly secured the warehouse.

The WFP has more than 100,000 tons of food at the port and has been doing its best to distribute supplies to civilians, many of whom are staying in makeshift camps.

Widespread insecurity has considerably hampered the Programme's operations, however.

Meanwhile, Johnson is expected to return this week from Accra, where he was attending regional talks aimed at resolving the conflict. [passage omitted]

Liberia: Warring Factions Resume Fighting in Monrovia 14 May

*AB1405160896 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 14 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As you might have guessed, the peace of the Liberian capital has been broken by fierce gun battles which broke out in some of Monrovia's key areas in the early hours of this morning. Our correspondent, Jonathan Peyley telexed this report:

After a few days of relative calm, residents of Monrovia were awoken today by the heavy boom of mortar shells and artillery fire as NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah] militiamen clashed with the combined forces of the LPC [Liberian Peace Council], AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia], and supporters of Roosevelt Johnson. According to reports, the fighting erupted at around 3 a.m. when forces of the LPC and AFL emerged from the slums above Slipway and opened fire with rocket-propelled grenade and machine-guns on one of the two bridges linking central Monrovia with the western suburb of Bushrod Island. The attackers very nearly seized control of the bridge before they were forced back by NPFL and ULIMO-K militiamen. The fighting later switched to the compound of the Ministry of Public Works, situated 200 meters away from the Barclay Training Center [BTC], which was also shelled this morning.

As the fighting raged around the Public Works compound, further clashes broke out along Sekou Toure Avenue, near the diplomatic district of Mamba Point. But other fighting was reported along Retention Road, a 1.5-mile stretch of road linking the Executive Mansion and the BTC. Sporadic gun fire could still be heard this afternoon as the warring factions shot at each other across Monrovia's two main bridges.

Meanwhile, the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group] chief of staff, General Gabriel Anyankpele, told me yesterday that peacekeeping troops would not be deployed in the city until there was a complete cease-fire and full withdrawal of all militiamen.

Liberia: Numerous Refugees Arriving in Gbarnga, Ganta, Kakata

*AB1005182296 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 10 May 96*

[Telexed report by Monrovia correspondent Jonathan Peyley; from the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An estimated 20,000 displaced people have arrived in the central Liberian town of Gbarnga since the recent fighting broke out. A further 9,000 have reached the eastern border town of Ganta and are currently seeking shelter in the already densely populated town. Villages along the highway between Monrovia and Gbarnga are also swarming with displaced people who are reluctant to continue their journey, largely because of exhaustion, since many have been forced to walk due to the scarcity of vehicles. A police colonel on duty at the crossroad town of Kakata, 35 miles northeast of Monrovia, confirmed that, at least, 500 displaced people, mostly women with babies stuck to their backs, are passing through the town everyday. He said many of them were carrying bundles of personal belongings on their heads.

Meanwhile, the cost of living in Monrovia continues to soar. For instance, a bag of rice, which used to cost Liberian \$1,000, about U.S. \$20, is now selling for four times that much, if indeed any is available at all, whilst a bag of charcoal, which used to sell for around U.S. \$65, now costs up to \$1,000. Furthermore people are being forced to eat bulgur wheat. (Nun Morris), a resident of the eastern Monrovia suburb of Paynesville, said eating bulgur is outrageous and humiliating, adding that previously, they fed bulgur only to their animals.

Caught in the midst of all this are 3,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who fled from Paynesville last week. The refugees are now sheltering in four abandoned warehouses on Bushrod Island.

Nigeria

Nigeria: Abacha Accepts Cameroon's Invitation To Attend OAU Summit

*AB1305191396 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1800 GMT 13 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports just reaching us say Cameroon has invited Nigeria to attend the forthcoming OAU summit slated for Yaounde in July this year. The invitation is contained in a special message from President Paul Biya delivered to the head of state, General Sani Abacha, today in Abuja. State House correspondent, Oji Ogbonaya Oji, has the details:

[Begin Oji recording] That special message from President Biya was handed over to the head of state, Gen. Sani Abacha, by the leader of the three-man delegation, vice prime minister of that country, Hamadou Moustapha, who is also (?dubbed) as Cameroon minister for housing. In the letter, President Biya stated that the important position which Nigeria occupied in Africa was such that the country's presence in this summit will help provide opportunity for far-reaching discussions and decision on a number of issues to be taken in the summit in the interest of peace and stability in Africa.

Receiving the special message, Gen. Abacha (?said that he) was quite pleased. The head of state gave the assurance that he would personally attend the summit in Yaounde come July this year. Earlier, the head of state had received a special envoy of the UN secretary general, Mr. Lakada Tahimi. The envoy delivered a copy of the recommendations of the UN fact-finding mission which visited Nigeria recently to assess the political situation in the country as well as the Ogoni question.

Receiving the report, Gen. Abacha welcomed the concern so far demonstrated by the UN secretary general toward the restoration of peace and normalcy in Nigeria. He gave the assurance that the recommendations would be carefully studied and those aspects that would facilitate the smooth implementation of the transition program would be adopted. Gen. Abacha reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to dialogue with the United Nations on all issues of mutual interest. [end recording]

Nigeria: Paper Reports Suspected French Army Presence in Bakassi

AB1305102296 Lagos VANGUARD in English
7 May 96 p 1

[Article by George Onah: "French Legionnaires Spotted in Bakassi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some whitemen suspected to be French legionnaires have been spotted in the disputed Bakassi Peninsula fighting on the side of Cameroonian troops against Nigerian soldiers. The news came yesterday against the background of allegation by Foreign Affairs Minister, Chief Tom Ikimi that Paris has been throwing its weight behind Cameroon in its present aggression against Nigeria. France has not responded to the allegation.

The French legionnaires were reportedly sighted in camouflage military kits and some of them used dark objects to conceal their skin and faces.

The two sides resumed fighting yesterday using long range artillery weapons. BBC said heavy casualties were recorded on both sides.

Thirteen Nigerian soldiers on patrol escaped with gun shot wounds yesterday after running into a Cameroonian ambush on the creeks of Benkoro and Gidigidi in the disputed Peninsula.

The wounded are now receiving treatment at the Military Hospital in the Brigade Headquarters in Calabar.

The ambush, sources said, followed five days of intensive artillery bombardment of Nigerian troops by the Cameroonians and was to precede an all out attack on the Nigerians. But military sources said Nigeria is still maintaining its positions as it has done in the last three years, while the Cameroonians in their desperation have adopted guerrilla tactics to penetrate Nigerian positions.

Nigeria: Oil Minister Stresses Commitment to OPEC Production Quota

AB1105163096 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 11 May 96

[FBI Transcribed Excerpt] Nigeria has pledged continued support to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC]. The minister of petroleum resources, Chief Dan Etete, made the pledge at a dinner in Abuja in honor of the visiting president of the organization, Mr. [Amman McLuty] and its secretary general, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukeman. Energy correspondent Malaki Okpong has the story:

[Begin Okpong recording] The minister said Nigeria was committed to the production quota of the organization. Chief Etete stated that OPEC was a formidable organization set up to stabilize the oil market for the benefit of member nations. He said the organization was intact and not in any way threatened by any fall. Chief Etete pointed out that OPEC has, over the years, achieved the stabilization of price in the global price market. The minister said that OPEC delegation was in the country to brief the head of state on the activities of the organization. Chief Etete said the visit also afforded the OPEC executives the opportunity to see things for themselves in the country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

**Nigeria: Minister Discusses Opposition Figures,
International Community**

AB1305121796 Lagos TELL in English 13 May 96
pp 17-22

["Excerpts" of interview with Wada Nas, minister of special duties, by TELL correspondent Anselm Okolo; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Okolo] Some prominent Nigerians have been outside the country. Prominent among them is Professor Wole Soyinka. They have accused the military regime of forcing them into exile. With this level of political exiles, how does the government want people to take them seriously?

[Nas] I have said it before. If these people concerned are for Nigeria and Nigerians, they should come back home. Our problems, no matter how many we have, are here, in Nigeria. None is outside Nigeria. So, if they are concerned about Nigeria they should come back home. Let us solve our problems here. The problems are here in Nigeria so also are the solutions. Why should you go outside? I think it better for one to talk about something which he can see and touch practically rather than go outside. If today, Soyinka talks of Nigeria, he is first talking from hearsay. Maybe he phoned somebody, and that somebody tells him whatever he wants to hear, that's how it is. But if he is here in Nigeria, he can talk authoritatively. Even if he wants to tell it to his friends in America and other parts of the world. But now, he is getting second hand information. Maybe the people who are feeding him are not feeding him with the correct and authentic information.

[Okolo] But these people have accused this regime of making their country uncomfortable for them?

[Nas] Do they know what their country is now? They don't know whether it is now comfortable. That is the problem.

[Okolo] This brings to mind the issue of political detainees. People are now worried...

[Nas] (Cuts in) We don't have any. We don't have any political detainee in this country.

[Okolo] It is difficult agreeing with you on this point.

[Nas] I don't say it because I want you to agree. I know what I am saying. I am telling you facts. Unless you have another interpretation for political detainees. But if you are talking of people who are detained on purely political grounds, we don't have any in this country.

[Okolo] But so many people are being detained purely on grounds of the kind of work the organizations they

head are involved in. Like some of these civil rights organisations.

[Nas] (Cuts in) They must have done something that is against the laws of the land, and not because they belong to any organisation.

[Okolo] Even some journalists are also detained.

[Nas] Journalists are Nigerians. If they do anything that is against the law of the land, they must be arrested.

[Okolo] But how about a situation where they are clamped into detention without trial for very long periods?

[Nas] Maybe investigations are still going on.

[Okolo] But it is said that justice delayed is justice denied.

[Nas] Why do you like justice rushed? If you rush justice what will happen? You will find that innocent people will be punished.

[Okolo] You have accused NADECO [National Democratic Coalition] of virtually everything, like planting of bombs, destabilizing the government, etc. But we all know that NADECO is not involved in the running of government, which has had very bad times too. Now, there is crisis in almost all the sectors. The education industry has virtually collapsed, and the economy is dead. Why have you decided to blame NADECO for all these problems? Is NADECO really the cause of all these problems?

[Nas] One thing that informed me of accusing NADECO for all these kinds of things, among others, is these so-called NADECO people outside this country calling for sanctions against their motherland. There was even a time that they called for a certain power to invade this country. If somebody can go outside his country and call for sanction for that country of his, or call on any super power or whatever it is to invade that country, so whatever happens to that country of his if he is held responsible, it is alright. It's alright. You understand me.

[Okolo] I understand, but...

[Nas] From the look of things they have shown that they don't have any more interest in the survival of this country. If they had that interest, they shouldn't for any reason call for a sanction against Nigeria. They know the consequences of sanctions and they know whom that sanction is going to affect most, that is the common people. If truly they are protecting the interest of the common people, they shouldn't have called for sanctions against their country, they shouldn't at all.

[OKolo] But you have blamed NADECO for more than just that.

[Nas] (Cuts in) Oh yes.

[OKolo] Like you accused them of instigating people to plant the bombs that rocked some cities in the country.

[Nas] Didn't you see their denial? They didn't do a proper denial.

[OKolo] You are saying NADECO did not deny your accusations.

[Nas] They did deny. Just that their denial was just a mere denial. You could hardly ever get a thief who will just easily confess that he is a thief. That he has stolen this or that. You could hardly get that, even if he is caught red handed with the articles, he would still deny it. He would even say it is you who put the something in his pocket.

[OKolo] But I am sure that you have other facts to buttress your stand on this matter.

[Nas] I must have.

[OKolo] This is because you talked authoritatively on this matter. We would want to share the facts you have for accusing NADECO for doing all you have said.

[Nas] Let them ask me on a very serious note for the facts they are doubting. I think they are not doubting because they have not contested it either in the (news) paper or on the radio or in whatever media. They never contested what I said about them. However, if they want the facts, let them come to me, and I will give them facts about what they are contesting.

[OKolo] You recently denied the existence of the Hausa-Fulani Revolutionary body that claimed the life of the son of Sani Abacha. You were the only person that did that.

[Nas] (cuts in) Oh yes.

[OKolo] How do you know that the body does not exist?

[Nas] You see, one thing is the way it is presented to the public to believe. It is not the type or way the Hausa-Fulani do their thing. You will never, ever get a Hausa-Fulani man who will say that I am destined by God to do this and this and that forever. That is not the culture of the Hausa-Fulani people. But the organization is saying that the Hausa-Fulani is destined by God to rule this country for ever. That is an accusation that has been placed on the Hausa-Fulani for a long time by a certain group. It is the act of those people who have been accusing Hausa-Fulani of dominating the leadership of this country for a long time.

[OKolo] As a man that is now prominent in government and as a Hausa-Fulani, does it not worry you that people are now accusing the Hausa-Fulani stock for staying on for too long in government?

[Nas] This matter of staying long in leadership from a certain group is not a new thing. Politics, is a game of numbers. Once you outnumber your colleagues, as long as politics is concerned, you will always be at the upperhand, always, everyday. Because, if it comes to voting, you cannot say, my people do not come out and vote, so as to give chance to my colleague to be in leadership. That practice is never done in any part of the world. Nowhere in the world. So it is people who are exercising their fundamental right of electing those whom they want to be their leaders. If some people are against the dominance of leadership by a certain group they should try very hard to penetrate the group that is dominating the leadership with something that will make them change, which will make the people to accept that maybe if we vote the other side, it will be better. Not just to sit down and say, you are dominating, you are dominating. Why can't you do something to stop him from dominating? Not in a violent way. But, in a very peaceful way. It is democracy. It is election. So, instead of allowing him to win election, try to stop him from winning. Try to see that it is you who wins and not that person. That is the only way but not on the pages of newspaper or radio and television to say that so, so, so group of people are dominating the leadership. So what?

[OKolo] Isn't this why the principle of rotating the presidency has been introduced? Although a lot of people mostly from the North are still opposed to it. How do you see the introduction?

[Nas] You do not expect me to say that I am opposed to it. I am part of the government. This is government's acceptance of what is proposed by the constitutional conference, of this country, and the government has accepted this rotation. I am part of government, so I cannot oppose it.

[OKolo] You recently spoke against a committee set up by the regime. I am talking about the committee on national reconciliation. People are now wondering if government is really serious with that committee since a minister of the same regime openly condemned it. What truly are your problems with that committee?

[Nas] Whatever are my problems with the people I have said it. So there is no need repeating them here anymore.

[OKolo] But at least you can talk on the issue of the attempt to release, through extra-judicial means, detained Chief M.K.O. Abiola?

[Nas] I will refer you to some of the dailies to get what I have said on that too. So, there is no need for repetition.

[Okolo] No, it will not look like repetition.

[Nas] No, it will, because it is something that I had already said and you want me to say it again.

[Okolo] Given the various dissent and discord ranging all around the country, and the momentum it has generated, do you sincerely think that national reconciliation is possible?

[Nas] Reconciliation at any given time is good. It is very important to the survival of any nation. If you fight with your friend, God wants you to reconcile with that person. There is no harm in reconciliation. I think if there is any harm, it is in the way to make that reconciliation possible. There is no harm in reconciliation.

[Okolo] With the way the matter is being handled at present, are you confident that national reconciliation will be achieved?

[Nas] Oh yes, why not?

[Okolo] The military have said many times that Nigerian politicians must change their ways. Have Nigerian politicians changed enough to take over the mantle of leadership?

[Nas] I do not see any change coming from the politicians. Let us put the love of our country first, even before the love of ourselves. Let us consider our country first before considering ourselves, let us consider what is best for our country, before considering what is best for us. Because we have to have a country to belong first before considering what will be good for us. You are saying that government has been asking the politicians to change. It is not only the government that is of that view, even ordinary Nigerians, the electorate want, very much, Nigerian politicians to change their attitude, their behavior from personal interest to the interest of the nation first. I want us to be committed to make Nigeria great, so that people will be proud to live in a great country made great by their fathers and grandfathers. There are so many potentials which if the country is great, every Nigerian will be opportunized to be whatever he or she wants to be. People are talking of bad leadership, I agree there can be bad leadership, but it is the responsibility of the people of the country to change that leadership in a very peaceful way. If you do not support leadership and the leadership goes wrong, you cannot just sit down and say things are not going well in the country. What can you offer as a solution to make things right? This is not forthcoming from us to the leadership of the country. [There is] no leader who

will not accept advice. There is no such leader. It is criticism, criticism, criticism. I am afraid we will reach a time, nobody will aspire for leadership, because of the lack of support from the people.

[Okolo] Are you saying that you have abandoned politics?

[Nas] Yes, I said so, and I have said it so many times.

[Okolo] You said you have abandoned politics because politicians have refused to change. But the soldiers are not better.

[Nas] Look my friend, if I may ask you, who brought the military to governance, was it not the civilians and the politicians?

[Okolo] But some people will also argue that they have always shot their way to power.

[Nas] No, no, never. There was none that didn't have the connivance of civilians, politicians for that matter. We have one habit in this country. (pauses) The politicians, don't accept defeat. Once he is defeated, the election is rigged. It is always accusation and counter-accusation from the victor and the defeated. If you win election, it's alright, otherwise it is rigged. All that the opposition wants is let the military come in so that, your victory will not see the light of the day.

[Okolo] We thought you told the NRC [National Republican Convention] this because you were in the party, when it was clear that the SDP [Social Democratic Party] was coasting home to victory at the 1993 presidential election.

[Nas] How can I tell the NRC that? Who was that person, who won that election?

[Okolo] But if the whole election results had been announced, one man was sure to win that election.

[Nas] You see, there is great difference in someone going to win and somebody winning. Election is always determined by the number of votes the contestants got, without that, nowhere can election be determined. There must be a total result of vote from each constituency, from each ballot box. From there the total votes can be determined. Here, you are talking of inconclusive election because none of the contestants as at today can tell you the number of votes he got. None of them. I can agree that maybe one was leading the other, but it was inconclusive because if the result of the other area that was not there then was balloted, may be there would be a change.

[Okolo] Let us go back to that presidential election in 1993. A lot of people had started shouting Eureka,

that at last, Nigerians had overcome the problem of ethnicity judging by the way Nigerians voted in that election. Nigerian politicians had done the unthinkable, they had come together to do what many thought was impossible and Nigerians were unanimous in saying it was a historic victory for all politicians until the annulment came.

[Nas] (Cuts in) That is very appreciative. It is unfortunate that the election was canceled. It is very unfortunate.

[Okolo] The fear now is that, that single cancellation of throwing-up something that could jeopardise future political exercise and unwittingly give the military a potent excuse for returning to power? [sentence as published]

[Nas] You should remember that there were so many elections canceled before that one. You know that.

[Okolo] But others did not happen at that same stage? [sentence as published]

[Nas] So, if you are talking about cancellation, you should also talk about them. There have been two cancellations, not one. The first cancellation affected some people as it affected some people in the last election. So, if you want to be fair, to myself and those who listen to you, you should talk about the two cancellations, not one.

[Okolo] But since the matter has not been properly resolved, it could destroy whatever political gains that could be made in the future.

[Nas] It is only a group of people who want to capitalise on it. It is not something which people should capitalise on.

[Okolo] With a man as prominent as C.C. Onoh, calling on government some few weeks ago to properly resolve the problem, are you still confident in maintaining your views on the 1993 election?

[Nas] Maybe that is the thinking of C.C. Onoh. No ethnic group in this country can live by itself. We better accept this as fact, work on that and live on that. No more, no less.

[Okolo] Why are you against those calling for the release of M.K.O. Abiola unconditionally?

[Nas] (Cuts in) For God's sake, those people who are now asking for the release of Abiola, why didn't they ask for the release of Chief Obafemi Awolowo? Was he not arrested, interrogated, taken to court, and jailed? Didn't he serve the jail term? Didn't he contribute more than Abiola in any way? There is no way to compare Chief Awolowo with Chief Abiola. See the irony of it

now. The old man was jailed and nobody raised a finger. All that he did for his people and Nigeria in general.

[Okolo] But the situation has changed?

[Nas] It has nothing to do with administration, whether it is the same or different. It is the personality involved, no matter the administration or situation. There is no way to compare what Awolowo did during his lifetime to his people and to the people of this country with what Chief Abiola did to the same people. There is no way for comparison.

[Okolo] But since we are now talking of national reconciliation.

[Nas] Was there no national reconciliation at that time? So there was no need for reconciliation at that time. Somebody who gave you free education, and you are not concerned with his survival, forgetting all that he did for you. Ah, this is very, very bad. Those people should be ashamed of themselves, ashamed of themselves.

[Okolo] Outside of this analysis, do you have anything against the release of Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

[Nas] I do not have any. I am just for justice.

[Okolo] A lot of people are not well informed about who is Wada Nas. Who really is Wada Nas?

[Nas] Wada Nas is a Nigerian. I am 57 years old. I was born in Funtua Local Government of Katsina State. I was once in the House of Representatives in the First Republic. Later I was secretary of the NPN [National Party of Nigeria], I was chairman of the NRC and now I am minister of special duties.

[Okolo] You are always very blunt. You seem not to be afraid of commenting on controversies. Right now, people are even wondering if you are the spokesman of the regime?

[Nas] (Cuts-in) Let me cut you short, that is the way I have been talking. If one is convinced that what one wants to say is true, why should he not say it? Is it not hypocrisy for one to have something to say and not say it because, he is afraid of one thing or the other? That is how I was brought up. I have been saying my mind always. That is how I was doing it in NEPU [expansion unknown]. I started with NEPU and I went to the House of Representatives under NEPU. There is no harm for one to speak the truth not minding what one will say on the other side. Once you are convinced that what you want to say is the truth, just go ahead and say it, nothing will happen to you. Even if some people want to victimize me, history will tell one day.

[Okolo] Some people think you are the devil's advocate, that you test the waters for government because you do not care whatever happens to your reputation.

[Nas] I have been speaking my mind for over 38 years, since I have been in politics. Maybe it is only now, that I have been in government. So, what will you say to all my sayings for all those years? Whose interest was I representing at that time? Are they not my personal views?

[Okolo] Your schedule as a special duty minister does not give any official coverage to your comments on NADECO. People are even beginning to call you minister of NADECO. Tell us, did you make those comments from your position as a special duties minister or in your personal capacity as Wada Nas?

[Nas] I am taking you back to my earlier answer. When I was not in government, whose interest did I represent at that time. This is not [the] first time I have been talking like this. If I see anything that will be against the peace and stability of this country, nobody will stop me from saying it. I have said many things about NADECO and I am pleased to know that NADECO is now dying. What remains of NADECO now? Very little life, very little. Even those sponsoring them from outside, will now find out that NADECO is no more. NADECO said that the election will not hold but it held. NADECO said there will be no turn-out, the turn-out, was very very impressive.

[Okolo] Without NADECO, as you claimed, who will government hold responsible for all its troubles?

[Nas] I am not sure NADECO is dead completely. As I said, it is dying, I will find out if it is dead completely.

[Okolo] However, you agree that NADECO is not responsible for the crises in virtually all sectors of the nation?

[Nas] It is only NADECO that is responsible for that. You are responsible too. What is your contribution to education?

[Okolo] I taught for some time.

[Nas] Well, that is a contribution but you shouldn't stop at that.

[Okolo] We are saying that the problem of this country is not NADECO but with a leadership that is not responsive to the yearnings of its people.

[Nas] That is what has been said about Nigerian leadership at any time. It is not new. The problem with Nigerians is that we are leaving everything to government. Why can't we try to do something for ourselves? Can't we learn from other nations? Go to

these Asian countries, to Korea, see how committed the people are to their country. Whatever calling they find themselves they see it as their contribution to national growth. This is how we should live. We must strive to utilize our calling for the betterment of our people.

[Okolo] People, however, argue that successive military regimes have been responsible for the death of this trait.

[Nas] A regime can come and go, what of the country? Do we have another Nigeria other than this? This is the only one. So what people should do rather is to be committed to the one that will not go, that is the country.

[Okolo] But people who have attempted to do this have been branded unpatriotic people. Is it only people in government that are or that can be patriotic?

[Nas] If you are in government are you not being accused? Maybe if you are out of government, the situation is the same thing. The problem is that whatever you do in this country you will be accused. Even you journalists are not left alone. We do not mind our business, we always mind others.

[Okolo] You have also accused people like Gani Fawehinmi of being unpatriotic.

[Nas] What I don't want with people is to pretend to be what they are not. That is my problem with Nigerians. They pretend to be the protector of common people while they are not. They pretend to work for the common people, while they are not. The poor man is there fighting with the condition that he has found himself. You are there saying you are fighting for him while you are enjoying yourself. So one cannot reconcile the two. If you say you are doing it for the common people, let it be seen you are doing so.

[Okolo] But Gani has shown over the years that he is not a pretender. He has represented a lot of common people in court without collecting money from them.

[Nas] (Cuts in) That is very beautiful of him.

[Okolo] He has also consistently championed the cause of democratic rule.

[Nas] So, we have only one man in the country. Only Gani. What is the percentage of him alone? Gani, one man and the rest of the people. So, if what Gani is doing is good why can't others emulate him instead of pretending.

[Okolo] You are a staunch supporter of General Sani Abacha. You are even ready to bet with your reputation that he means well. From where are you drawing all these assurances?

[Nas] I got my assurance from the leadership. General Abacha is somebody who stands by what he says. There is no doubt about that. I happen to find myself working with him and I know the man fully. He is always straight forward no matter what will happen. And one thing, no matter what one will say, the man loves this country very, very much. These are two of his so many qualities which has made me to say it loudly that this regime is going to successfully, Insha Allah, hand over to an elected government.

[Okolo] Talking futuristically, if you discover an iota of doubt on the part of the regime in carrying through this, what is most likely going to be your reaction?

[Nas] I can't talk on something I do not hope to happen. In Nigeria, we are always planning for the bad. We do not plan for good as much as we plan for bad.

[Okolo] I was hoping that you must have made contingency arrangement if things begin to go back.

[Nas] Whenever you plan something for your country, and you believe it is in its best interest you try and pursue it, and forget about the bad side of it. Be more on the positive side than on the negative side.

[Okolo] Beside your love for the general, what can you point to as his achievement.

[Nas] First, this administration has been able to achieve peace for this country. Nobody thought Nigeria wouldn't have fallen into war at the inception of this regime. We have been able to organize election into the constitutional conference, and the conference itself worked successfully and produced a constitution for our dear country. In no small term, that was a great achievement which every Nigerian should be proud of. That alone is enough for one to appreciate what this administration is doing.

[Okolo] You have accused the International Community of working to destabilise the country and they have countered that Nigeria must exist within some specific conditions that will allow for freedom of expression and association, what really has been prompting your actions?

[Nas] Em, you have already said it, in your dailies and magazines, that for there to be peace, Wada Nas should stop talking. So let Nas not talk too much so that there can be peace. So now, I am not talking (laughs).

[Okolo] But we have been talking.

[Nas] Yes, but I want peace, so let me keep quiet. But if I don't see any sign of peace, I will talk (laughs).

[Okolo] Do you really believe that the International Community is working to destabilise Nigeria?

[Nas] How do I know that?

[Okolo] This is because you have already accused the International Community of doing that?

[Nas] Haba [goodness gracious], so you do not want peace in this country. Why are you trying to make me talk when I say I do not want to talk, because we want peace (laughs). Don't be somebody who doesn't want peace.

Nigeria: Army Blamed for Federal Defects

AB0705203696 Lagos THE GUARDIAN in English
29 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Akpo Esajere: "Conference Blames Military for Nigeria's Federal Defects"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prolonged military rule has destroyed the basis of federalism in Nigeria. Indeed, the entrenchment of the military into the political and the economic life of the country has jeopardized the future of democratic civilian government.

These are some of the salient reflections on the Nigerian political situation by an international conference on "Constitution and Federalism," organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in collaboration with the Civil Liberties Organizations (CLO) in Lagos.

The conference observed that military rule is a retrogressive form of governance which is no longer acceptable to the people because the military is incapable of promoting democratic culture and true federalism due to its unitary command structure.

It further observed that prolonged military rule has affected the psyche of civilians and the political class such that they operate like the military, thereby creating opportunities for the military's return to power.

"Let us be frank and down to-earth about this matter. The military has killed federalism and turned the Constitution upside down. All state administrators are on command posting and dare not question the authority of their commander-in-chief at Abuja" the conference noted.

But it warned that there is a limit to using military force to hold a federation together, emphasising that a federation which depends for its survival on military control and regimentation will with time collapse.

The conference stated that a true federalism empowers the federating units to keep their resources while contributing an agreed percentage to the central government.

It observed that although diversities of various nation states is supposed to be a source of great strength,

the exploitation of this diversity by politicians, the military and bureaucrats has weakened the basis of true federalism.

"For democracy to have meaning, it must not only involve majority rule but also guarantee the protection of minority rights. "Discrimination, inequality and injustice by rulers are the main sources of grievances by ethnic minorities. Tokenism may not amount to protection of minority rights, as such federal character in practice may not address the minority problem.

"Militarism and federalism are opposing systems. Therefore, the term federal military government as we have today is a misnomer. The military has killed federalism in Nigeria".

The conference criticized several aspects of the 1995 draft Constitution, which some participants said could not be called a 'draft constitution' since it is still the subject of a fierce debate which might lead to fundamental modifications.

The creation of conflicting offices like president, vice president; prime minister, deputy prime minister, was as portending evil for the future.

The draft report also hammered on the question of revenue as the conference observed that the provisions on revenue do "not reflect the thinking in modern states on revenue generation, allocation and utilization in a federal structure."

Saying that a revenue formula which gives no more than 20 percent of federally generated revenue to the centre with at least 70 percent going to the states (actual centres of development) was preferred in a federal setting, the conference noted that the "revenue allocation formula pre-independence was generally more satisfactory because it accorded more with the principles of federalism."

The conference advised against the creation of more states, saying: "Incessant demand for more states due to the absence of good governance and unequitable distribution of resources. These factors are exploited by unscrupulous politicians in order to satisfy personal ambition."

It contended that constitutions should flow from organic culture and philosophical input of the people and made the familiar recommendation that the people of Nigeria should come together at a sovereign national conference reflecting popular participation which cuts across a broad spectrum of society to decide on the political future of the country. [passage omitted]

Nigeria: Government Fails To Produce Abiola in Court

AB1005140996 Paris AFP in English
1354 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lagos, 10 May (AFP) — The military government Friday [10 May] failed to obey the Federal High Court's order that detained Chief Moshood Abiola appear in court to announce his choice of legal representation in his treason trial, judicial sources said.

The refusal followed an appeal against the court order filed by government lawyer Tochukwu Onwugbufor in which he said that production of Abiola was "unnecessary" and was against normal court procedure.

"We are appealing against the appearance of the accused because we feel it is not necessary to appear and announce in court his legal counsel. He (Abiola) can do that in writing", Onwugbufor told the court.

Abiola was to appear in a court in Abuja, about 500 kilometres (300 miles) northeast of Lagos.

Judge Chris Senlong had last Wednesday in Abuja ordered the government and the police to produce Abiola in court Friday so that he could publicly announce his choice of legal representation.

Chief Rotimi Williams, a prominent Lagos-based lawyer who had filed the suit to compel the government to produce Abiola in court, described the appeal as "frivolous" and "unnecessary". Williams, who is seeking to take over Abiola's defence, urged the court to enforce its earlier order insisting that Abiola should appear in court.

The judge adjourned hearing in the case until July 3.

In the past few days, the issue of Abiola's legal representation in his treason trial has been fought between Chief Williams and Chief Godwin Ajayi, who has been the politician's principal defence lawyer since the treason trial started in July 1994. At the end of last month, Rotimi wrote to Ajayi, asking him to withdraw from the case. Ajayi fired a reply saying that only a direct instruction from Abiola or his wife, who hired him on behalf of her husband, could make him withdraw his legal representation from the case. [passage omitted]

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Government Allows Liberian Refugee Ship To Dock

AB1405122396 Paris AFP in English
1202 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Freetown, 14 May (AFP) — A ship with almost 1,000 Liberian refugees aboard

has been told it can dock in the Sierra Leone capital, aid agencies said here. Aid agencies, quoting security officials, said permission was granted late Monday [13 May] for the ship, Victory Reefer, to dock in Freetown on Tuesday.

It was not clear when the ship, anchored off Freetown since Sunday, would be allowed into port or what would happen to the refugees aboard.

Conditions aboard are appalling, dysentery is rife and aid workers have warned of a humanitarian disaster if the refugees are not helped soon.

"The inspector general of police has given the green light for the disembarkation to go ahead today (Tuesday)," a Red Cross official said.

A port official added: "There will be screening of all passengers and we shall let in only Sierra Leone nationals." He said he did not know what would happen to the other refugees aboard.

The official said the Victory Reefer would be berthed at the main Queen Elizabeth quay, where the passengers would be allowed off.

Red Cross spokeswoman Irene Osborne said food, water and medical supplies had been sent to the ship overnight but conditions on board were still bad.

"Two women were taken off the boat suffering from acute dysentery last night and are now in hospital," Osborne said. "Sanitation is appalling."

She said reliable estimates put the number of refugees aboard at 948, 908 of whom were either Sierra Leone or Liberian nationals. The rest are members of the west African peacekeeping force in Liberia (ECOMOG) and the ship's crew, she said.

A spokesman for aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said: "The situation is bad. These people have got to come out today (Tuesday) or the effect will be disastrous."

An unconfirmed report said a group of refugees was threatening to force the captain to steer the ship closer to shore. [passage omitted]

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